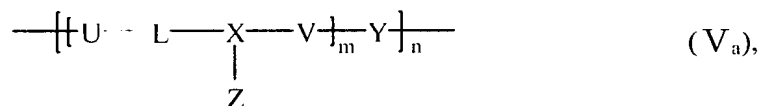


What is claimed is:

1. A biodegradable cationic polymer, which has amino groups in a backbone and side chains for delivering nucleic acids into a cell, and a formula (V<sub>a</sub>) of the biodegradable cationic polymer shown as below:

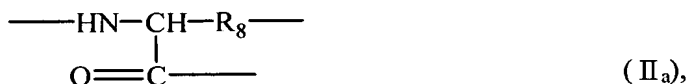


wherein

U is (R<sub>1</sub>—O)<sub>d</sub>, in which R<sub>1</sub> is a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylene or substituted alkylene radical, d is an integer of 4 to 200,

10 L is  $\text{---} \overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{||}}{\text{C}}} \text{---}$ ,

X is an amino acid group containing additional amino or amide group of the formula (II<sub>a</sub>):

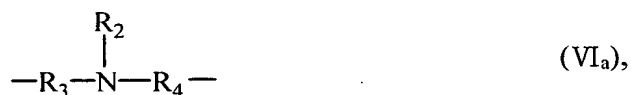


in which R<sub>8</sub> is selected from the group consisting of —CH<sub>2</sub>CONH<sub>2</sub>—, —CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CONH<sub>2</sub>—, and —CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>—,

15

V is —COO—,

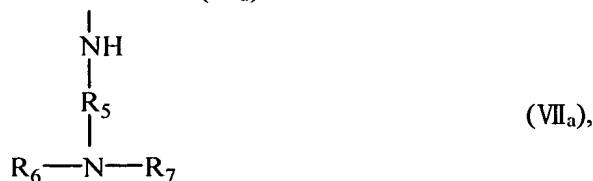
Y is an amino group of the formula (VI<sub>a</sub>):



in which R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl radical, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> is the same C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylene radical,

20

Z is an another amino group of the formula (VII<sub>a</sub>):



in which  $R_5$  is  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkylene radical,  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  are the same or different  $C_1$ - $C_5$  alkyl radicals,

$m$  is an integer of 1 to 10, and

$n$  is an integer of 1 to 20.

5

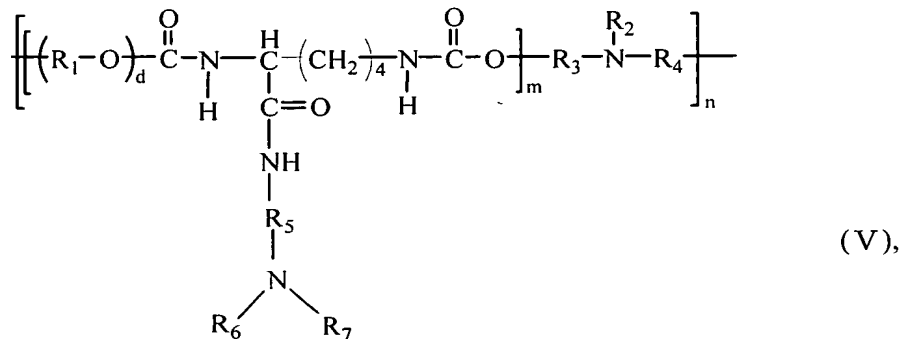
2. The biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 1, wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of  $C_2$ - $C_5$  alkylene radicals.

3. The biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 2, wherein  $R_1$  is ethylene radical,  
10  $d$  is an integer of 4 to 200.

4. The biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 2, wherein  $R_1$  is propylene radical,  $d$  is an integer of 9 to 34.

15 5. The biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 1, wherein  $X$  is preferably  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2-$ .

6. A biodegradable cationic polymer, which has amino groups in a backbone and side chains for delivering nucleic acids into a cell, and a formula (V) of the  
20 biodegradable cationic polymer shown as below:



wherein

$R_1$  is a  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkylene or substituted alkylene radical,  $d$  is an integer of 4 to 200,

$R_2$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl radical,

5  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  is the same  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylene radical,

$R_5$  is  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  alkylene radical,

$R_6$  and  $R_7$  is the same or different  $C_1$ - $C_5$  alkyl radical,

$m$  is an integer of 1 to 10, and

$n$  is an integer of 1 to 20.

10

7. The biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 6, wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of  $C_2$ - $C_5$  alkylene radicals.

8. The biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 7, wherein  $R_1$  is ethylene radical,

15  $d$  is an integer of 4 to 200.

9. The biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 7, wherein the  $R_1$  is propylene radical,  $d$  is an integer of 9 to 34.

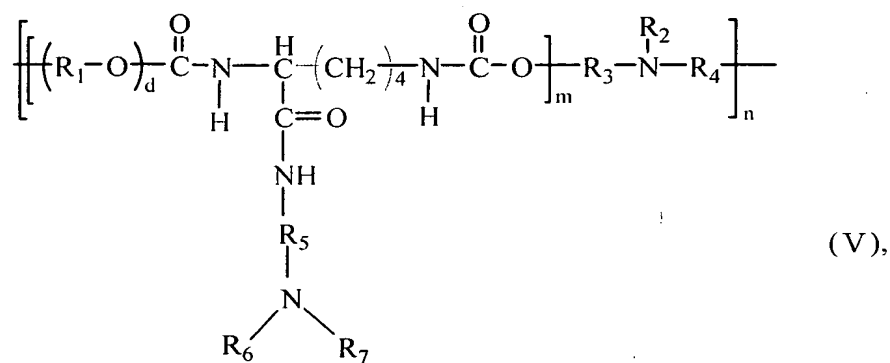
20 10. A method of making biodegradable cationic polymer, which has amino groups in a backbone and side chains for delivering nucleic acids into a cell; and the method of making a biodegradable cationic polymer comprises:

performing a polymerization, which reacts L-lysine methyl ester diisocyanate (LDI) with a polyol until a first NCO/OH molar ratio in anhydrous dimethyl formamide (DMF) at 75 to 85 °C, to obtain an isocyanate-terminated prepolymer ;

25

performing a chain extension reaction, which has decrease of 0 to 10 °C, then adds the chain extender slowly to the prepolymer until a second NCO/OH molar ratio, and an organotin compound is used as a catalyst at 75 to 85°C for approximately 120 min, to obtain a polyurethane having an alkoxide group provided by LDI; and

performing an aminolysis reaction, which the alkoxide group of the polyurethane (IV) is replaced by an amino group with another amine, to obtain the biodegradable cationic polymer, which has a formula (V):



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylene or substituted alkylene radical, d is an integer of 4 to 200,

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl radical,

R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> is the same C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylene radical,

R<sub>5</sub> is C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylene radical,

R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> is the same or different C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl radical,

m is an integer of 1 to 10, and

n is an integer of 1 to 20.

11. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 10, wherein the polyol is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol (PEG),

polypropylene glycol (PPG), polytetramethylene glycol (PTMG) and polytetramethylene ester glycol (PTMEG).

12. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 11, wherein  
5 the PEG has a degree of polymerization of 4 to 200.

13. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 11, wherein the PPG has a degree of polymerization of 9 to 34.

10 14. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 10, wherein the polymerization reaction is preferred at approximately 80°C.

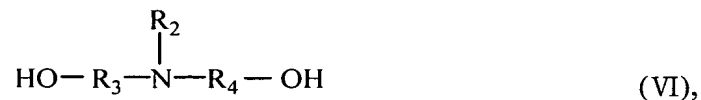
15 15. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 10, wherein the first NCO/OH molar ratio is approximately 2/1.

16 16. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 10, wherein the second NCO/OH molar ratio is approximately 1/1.

17 17. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 10, wherein  
20 the chain extension reaction is preferred at approximately 80°C.

18. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 10, wherein the chain extension reaction is preferably performed for approximately 120 minutes.

19. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 10, wherein the chain extender is an amine of the formula (VI):



5        wherein  $\text{R}_2$  is hydrogen or  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$  alkyl radical, and  $\text{R}_3$  and  $\text{R}_4$  is the same  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$  alkylene radical.

20. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 19, wherein the chain extender is N-methyldiethanolamine (MDEA).

10

21. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 10, wherein the organotin compound is dibutyltin dilaurate.

22. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 21, wherein  
15    the organotin compound is added in 0.1 to 1 weight percent (wt %).

23. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 21, wherein the organotin compound is added in 0.5 wt %.

20        24. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 10, wherein the alkoxide group is methyloxy group.

25. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 10, wherein the another amine presents a formula (VII):



wherein R<sub>5</sub> is C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylene radical, and R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> is the same or different  
 5 C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl radical.

26. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 25, wherein  
 the another amine is N,N-Diethylethylenediamine (DEDA).

10 27. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 10, wherein  
 a molecular weight (MW) of the biodegradable cationic polymer is 6000 to 62000.

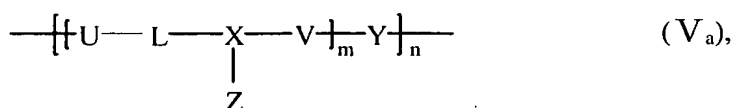
28. The method of making biodegradable cationic polymer of claim 10, wherein  
 the nucleic acids are encoded a gene, and the nucleic acids are selected from the group  
 15 consisting of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and ribonucleic acid (RNA).

29. A method of using biodegradable cationic polymer for in vitro delivering  
 nucleic acids into a cell, and the method of using biodegradable cationic polymer for in  
 vitro delivering nucleic acids into a cell comprises:

20 forming complexes with the nucleic acids and the biodegradable cationic  
 polymer; and

applying the complexes to the cell for delivering the nucleic acids into the cell  
 by endocytosis;

wherein the biodegradable cationic polymer has a formula (V<sub>a</sub>):



in which

U is  $(\text{R}_1\text{---O})_d$ , in which  $\text{R}_1$  is a  $\text{C}_2\text{---C}_{20}$  alkylene or substituted alkylene radical, d is an integer of 4 to 200,

L is  $\text{---} \overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{||}}{\text{C}}} \text{---}$ ,

X is an amino acid group containing additional amino or amide group of the formula (II<sub>a</sub>):



in which  $\text{R}_8$  is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{---CH}_2\text{CONH}_2\text{---}$ ,  $\text{---CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CONH}_2\text{---}$ , and  $\text{---CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2\text{---}$ ,

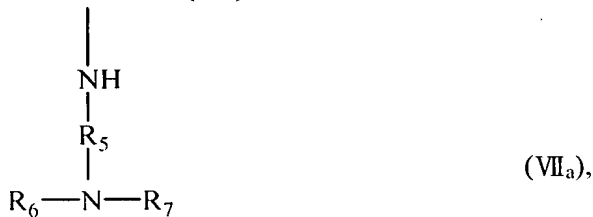
V is  $\text{---COO---}$ ,

Y is an amino group of the formula (VI<sub>a</sub>):



in which  $\text{R}_2$  is hydrogen or  $\text{C}_1\text{---C}_{20}$  alkyl radical,  $\text{R}_3$  and  $\text{R}_4$  is the same  $\text{C}_1\text{---C}_{20}$  alkylene radical,

Z is an another amino group of the formula (VII<sub>a</sub>):



in which  $\text{R}_5$  is  $\text{C}_2\text{---C}_{20}$  alkylene radical,  $\text{R}_6$  and  $\text{R}_7$  are the same or different  $\text{C}_1\text{---C}_5$  alkyl radicals,

m is an integer of 1 to 10, and

n is an integer of 1 to 20.



30. The method of using biodegradable cationic polymer for in vitro delivering nucleic acids into a cell of claim 29, wherein  $R_1$  is selected from the group consisting of  $C_2$ - $C_5$  alkylene radicals.

5

31. The method of using biodegradable cationic polymer for in vitro delivering nucleic acids into a cell of claim 30, wherein  $R_1$  is ethylene radical,  $d$  is an integer of 4 to 200.

10

32. The method of using biodegradable cationic polymer for in vitro delivering nucleic acids into a cell of claim 30, wherein  $R_1$  is propylene radical,  $d$  is an integer of 9 to 34.

15

33. The method of using biodegradable cationic polymer for in vitro delivering nucleic acids into a cell of claim 29, wherein a mass ratio of the biodegradable cationic polymer to the nucleic acids is 1/1 to 50/1.

20

34. The method of using biodegradable cationic polymer for in vitro delivering nucleic acids into a cell of claim 29, wherein a mass ratio of the biodegradable cationic polymer to the nucleic acids is 5/1 to 30/1.

35. The method of using biodegradable cationic polymer for in vitro delivering nucleic acids into a cell of claim 29, wherein a mass ratio of the biodegradable cationic polymer to the nucleic acids is 20/1.

25

36. The method of using biodegradable cationic polymer for in vitro delivering nucleic acids into a cell of claim 29, wherein the nucleic acids are encoded a gene, and the nucleic acids are selected from the group consisting of DNA and RNA.

5           37. The method of using biodegradable cationic polymer for in vitro delivering nucleic acids into a cell of claim 36, wherein the DNA is selected from the group consisting of double-stranded DNA, single-stranded DNA and synthetic oligonucleotides.

10           38. The method of using biodegradable cationic polymer for in vitro delivering nucleic acids into a cell of claim 36, wherein the RNA is selected from the group consisting of sense RNA, anti-sense RNA and ribozyme RNA.

15           39. The method of using biodegradable cationic polymer for in vitro delivering nucleic acids into a cell of claim 29, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of primary cells and tumor cells.